

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A context-based retrieval method, comprising:
 - storing information associated with subscribers and usable to determine contexts associated with information requests;
 - storing contact information;
 - receiving an information request including identifying information associated with a requester;
 - comparing the requester identifying information to determine whether the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored;
 - determining a context for the information request when it is determined that the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored; and
 - providing a response to the information request selected from the stored contact information based on a condition associated with the determined context for the request.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the requester identifying information is determined using a caller ID lookup.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information associated with one of the subscriber includes a geographic location information.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the context for the information request includes receiving signaling information from a voice network.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein providing a response comprises:

determining whether a user is authorized to receive the response; and providing the response to the user based on a result of the determination.

6. A method for performing a context based query to find information in a directory for a destination, comprising:

receiving information identifying a user;
receiving a query request to find information for the destination from the user;
determining a context for the query request;
obtaining information in the directory related to the destination based on the context of the query request; and
providing the obtained information regarding the destination to the user.

7. The method of claim 7, wherein obtaining information in the directory, comprises:
 - determining a plurality of candidates satisfying the destination;
 - determining at least one of the plurality of candidates being consistent with the context of the query request; and
 - determining the destination corresponding to the candidate consistent with the context of the query request.

8. Apparatus for context-based retrieval, comprising:

a first storage system for storing information associated with subscribers and usable to determine contexts associated with an information request;
a second storage system for storing contact information;

a receiver for receiving from a requester the information request including identifying information associated with the requester;

a processor for comparing the requester identifying information to determine whether the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored and to determine a context for the request when it is determined that the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored; and

a transmitter for providing the requester with a response to the information request selected from the stored contact information, based on a condition associated with the determined context for the request.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the requester identifying information is determined using a caller ID lookup.
10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the information associated with one of the subscribers includes a geographic location information.
11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the processor is to receive signaling information from a voice network.
12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the transmitter is to provide the response when the user is authorized and the processor is to determine whether the requester is authorized to receive the response.
13. A system for context-based retrieval, comprising:
 - means for storing information associated with subscribers and usable to determine contexts associated with an information request;
 - means for storing contact information;

means for receiving from a requester the information request including identifying information associated with the requester;

means for comparing the requester identifying information to determine whether the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored;

means for determining a context for the request when it is determined that the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored; and

means for providing the requester with a response to the information request selected from the stored contact information, based on a condition associated with the determined context for the request.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the requester identifying information is determined using a caller ID lookup.
15. The system of claim 13, wherein the information associated with one of the subscribers includes a geographic location information.
16. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for determining the context for the information request includes means for receiving signaling information from a voice network.
17. The system of claim 13, wherein means for providing the requester with a response comprises:

means for determining whether the requester is authorized to receive the response; and

means for providing the response when the user is authorized.

18. A computer readable medium capable of configuring a device to perform a method for context-based retrieval, the method comprising:

storing information associated with subscribers and usable to determine contexts associated with an information request;

storing contact information;

receiving from a requester the information request including identifying information associated with the requester;

comparing the requester identifying information to determine whether the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored;

determining a context for the request when it is determined that the requester is one of the subscribers for which information has been stored; and

providing the requester with a response to the information request selected from the stored contact information, based on a condition associated with the determined context for the request.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the requester identifying information is determined using a caller ID lookup.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein storing information associated with subscriber includes a geographic location.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining the context for the information request includes receiving signaling information from a voice network.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein providing the requester with a response comprises:

determining whether the requester is authorized to receive the response;

and

providing the response when the user is authorized.